

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to change “strong acid” to “acid,” rendering moot the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection based on the presence of the term “strong” in claims 4, 9 and 11.

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims over Kerres and Fukuda, and the § 103(a) rejection over Fukuda. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended claims 7, 10, 11, and 12 to be independent claims, including the features of the respective base claim and intervening claims, in order to take advantage of the Examiner’s indication of patentable subject matter therein.

Applicant also has amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 4, which also was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

Applicant has cancelled claims 4 and 8, based on the above-described amendments, to prevent superfluous claiming.


In view of the correction of the cited informality, and the amendment of claims 1, 7, 10, 11, and 12 to be independent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that this case is now in condition for allowance. Applicant requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
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